Minutes
Wednesday, April 19, 2017
8:15-9:50 a.m. Old Main Boardroom


Guests: President Hart, C. Sigurdson, B. Walker

Call to Order
Co-Chair R. Richardson called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.

Approval of the Minutes of April 5, 2017
The minutes of April 5, 2017 were approved with three abstentions.

Guest: President Ann Weaver Hart
Co-Chair Richardson welcomed President Hart and thanked her for her engagement with Shared Governance, with SPBAC, and for her strong support for Never Settle.

President Hart in turn thanked SPBAC for all its work on Never Settle and reminded members that everyone has something to contribute to the goal of shared governance. Hart said she feels confident that incoming President Dr. Robert Robbins will also support shared governance and working with groups across the campus.

President Hart shared updates in the following:

- The Diversity Task Force, which includes three SPBAC members (B. Carter, J. Duran, and J. Treviño), has prepared its final report. The report consists of three sections: (1) what is happening or has been accomplished already, (2) ideas and goals for the FY2018 budget, and (3) suggestions for Dr. Robbins for next steps.
- FY2018 budget resources are scarce. This coming year, the proposal is for $5M less than last year’s one time monies of $19M.
- President Hart has asked that at least 2% raises be included in the FY2018 budget as a continuation of the three-year promise. These raises would include graduate students.
Senior leadership is continuing to push for sales tax recapturing for deferred maintenance/infrastructure upkeep and repairs. The UA is asking that the recapturing be university-specific, such that what each university spends in taxes be returned to that university as opposed an equal split across the three universities. One idea being proposed would require the UA to match the funds returned for repairs and upkeep.

President Hart also discussed teaching and teacher preparation in Arizona’s K-12 system as part of the proposed Teacher’s Academy, being developed by the three state universities in response to a request from the Governor.

Members’ questions resulted in discussion of the perceived Tucson-Phoenix rivalry, problematic because the UA is here to serve the entire state. Our investments in bio-medical research, for example, produce benefits across Arizona (as well as around the globe).

Members also discussed the complexities around faculty recruitment and retention. While some variables keep them here – the university’s reputation, our communities, our beautiful desert landscape – other variables hurt our abilities to keep them here (poaching from other institutions, lack of confidence in the strength of departments). The importance of development and finding outside sources of funds in service to growth, including faculty recruitment and retention, were discussed.

In response to questions about 100% Student Engagement, President Hart noted that she feels the process has moved at a slower pace than she had anticipated; the initiative is an important one for the UA given the clear benefit to students.

Members asked for Hart’s insight into the issues surrounding the building of the Honors College complex, planned for just outside the UA planning area. She shared some of the history of the project, the planning for which goes back years and has consistently including engagement with the surrounding neighborhoods.

Members thanked President Hart for her engagement and attendance at SPBAC meetings.

Other Updates:
S. Panferov told members that the UA delegation that traveled to Saudi Arabia for an international recruitment event met with a smaller group of interested students than in previous years, partly due to the fact that students are now required to complete 30 hours of classroom credit before they are eligible for aid. Members asked about the feasibility of students acquiring those hours through online classes. V. Del Casino talked about a possible pilot program to better explain the value of online learning, since most countries still do not see online as comparable to in-person learning. M. Miller said that the Law School’s experiences with China suggest that they too do not yet see online learning as an acceptable alternative to in-person.

V. Del Casino updated the Committee about online learning at the UA. Enrollment for the summer is up, and as of now enrollment for the Fall Semester is likewise on track for growth. There are now five corporate partnerships in place.
B. Walter, Interim Special Advisor to the President for Marketing and Communications, said that he is scheduled to be here through June to help with the Presidential transition, and is open to the possibility of further engagement with the University should that be requested.

R. Richardson thanked ASUA outgoing President M. Finnegan for his participation in SPBAC and asked him his thoughts about his term as ASUA President. M. Finnegan felt his experiences with shared governance have been positive. He reminded members that committee use of acronyms can be very confusing and intimidating to students. He liked the way some chairs worked to engage students and their thoughts throughout the meetings, and encourage SPBAC to continue asking for student opinions. His successor will be Matthew Lubisich.

**Discussion-Emerging Budget Priorities FY 18**
A draft budget priorities handout developed by the Co-Chairs based on preliminary discussions at the last SPBAC meeting was distributed. M. Galilee-Belfer updated the Committee on the changes that had been incorporated and asked members to weigh in on the changes.

A. Vaillancourt reminded members about the importance that Chair of the Faculty Lynn Nadel has placed on salary increases. The United States labor market is showing a 3% increase in salaries, but the UA is considering only a 2% raise for employees. Vaillancourt shared that she feels that salary increases should be front and center on the Priority document. Other members expressed concerns about the number of faculty that are being drawn away by institutions in California, the Big Ten Schools and private universities. J.P. Jones said that he has seen an interest in recruiting new younger faculty versus just paying current faculty more to help revitalize departments and colleges.

M. Miller reminded members about the great need for increased attention to alternate sources of revenue. B. Carter said that more students and faculty come when they see others who they can identify with. J. Treviño reminded the Committee that diversity and Inclusive Excellence needs to be apparent throughout the University.

Discussion continued as adjournment time approached. The Committee decided to call an additional meeting to continue the discussion on May 17th. The May 3rd meeting may provide some additional discussion time as well.

**Adjournment**
The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

**Future Meetings**
- **May 3, 2017**
  8:15 am – 9:50 am Old Main Boardroom
- **May 17, 2017**
  8:15 am – 9:50 am Old Main Boardroom